

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-28 • September 26, 2008

BLM
Burns District Office

EP MINERALS PROPOSES MINE EXPANSION ON PUBLIC LANDS

HINES, Oregon – EP Minerals, formerly known as EaglePicher Minerals, has proposed to expand their existing diatomite mine complex in northeastern Harney County. Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze potential environmental effects resulting from the proposed expansion.

Public scoping meetings regarding the proposed mine expansion will be held in Burns and Vale in October; meeting dates have not yet been determined. Public comments will be accepted until October 30, 2008. If you would like further information or would like to provide comments or have your name added to our mailing list, contact Celatom Mine Expansion EIS Lead, Burns District BLM, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738 or email OREPCME@blm.gov.

EP Minerals excavates diatomaceous earth during the summer, stockpiles ore and waste rock in the vicinity of each mine, and hauls the ore approximately 60 miles year-round to their mill located on private land west of Vale, Oregon. At the mill the ore is crushed, dried, and calcined to make particulate filters for fruit juices, wine, beer, sugar, bio-diesel fuel, corn syrup, and water; for additives to paint, rubber, paper, and plastics; or used as other products such as absorbents, catalysts, and carriers for pesticides. Some ore is stockpiled on Vale District BLM-administered land in the vicinity of the mill. Mill waste is returned to the mine site and used in backfilling the open pits as part of reclamation.

The company's Celatom Mine Complex currently consists of three open pit mines located within four miles of each other in Harney and Malheur Counties, Oregon. Kelly Field mine is on BLM-administered land, Section 36 mine is on land managed by the State of Oregon, and Beede Desert mine is on private land. All are within Burns District BLM's Three Rivers Resource Area and cover approximately 450 acres.

EP Minerals proposes to begin mining at Hidden Valley and expand mining at Kelly Field. They plan to mine later at Eagle and Section 25, and eventually mine at Sagebrush Flat. They also expect to conduct exploratory drilling across a larger area.

For more information on EP Minerals, the proposed mine expansion, or public comment opportunities, call (541) 573-4484.

